

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /077 W

----- 093704

R 171759Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 780

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 0093

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, XL, GY

SUBJECT: TRADE ACT OF 1974--APPROACH TO GOG

REF: STATE 282967

1. EMBOFF CONTACTED PERMSEC COLLINS IN FONOFF AND ADVISED GOG OF TRA REQUIREMENTS TO ESTABLISH BENEFICIARY STATUS. COLLINS REFERRED EMBOFF TO ECON OFFICIAL (BENN) WHO WAS SENT COPY OF TITLE V. BENN REPLIED WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT GOG ACTION TO SEEK BENEFICIARY STATUS, THAT IT WAS QUOTE A POLITICAL QUESTION UNQUOTE, AND INDICATED THAT GOG RELUCTANT TO FORMALLY REQUEST SUCH STATUS UNTIL IT COULD DETERMINE WHETHER DISCRIMINATORY CLAUSES AFFECTED IT OR ITS FRIENDS. EMBOFF REMINDED BENN OF USG HOPE TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS BY JANUARY 13, AND ADDED THAT ON INFORMAL BASIS EMBASSY HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT IBA DOES NOT RPT NOT FALL WITHIN TRA DEFINITION OF CARTEL.

2. SOME POLICY MAY BE IN PROCESS OF FORMULATION WITHIN CARICOM GROUP VIS-A-VIS RESPONSE TO TRA. WE SONDER IF PERHAPS VENEZUELA
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IS PRESSURING GUYANA (AND OTHERS) TO REJECT BENEFICIARY STATUS.

WHEN DCM ON JAN 8 TOLD FONMIN RAMPHAL, IN PRESENCE OF VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR, THAT TRADE BILL HAD BEEN SIGNED, LATTER COMMENTED TO RAMPHAL AND DCM THAT AS RAMPHAL KNEW, PRESIDENT PEREZ HAD RECOMMENDED PRESIDENT FORD VETO BILL. VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR THEN COMMENTED CRYPTICALLY ON NEED FOR UNIFIED RESPONSE, TO WHICH RAMPHAL NODDED AFFIRMATIVELY

3. ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO GOG AND CARICOM OFFICIALS EXPRESSED BASICALLY POSIIVE FEELINGS ABOUT BILL, AND SOLE COMPLAINT WAS RELATD TO DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF RULES OF ORIGIN. NOW, GOG HESITATION MAY INDICATE THE BEGINNINGS OF A CONSENSUS AGAINST TRA WITHIN CARICOM. IF JAMAICAN ARBITRATION PROBLEM BEARING ON TRA SURFACES AS CARICOM ISSUE, THIS COUPLED WITH VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE COULD MAKE ANY INDIVIDUAL CARICOM MEMBER RELUCTANT TO BE THE FIRST TO APPLY FOR BENEFICIARY STATUS.

4. ACTION REQUEST: IN EVENT WE ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT FOR FORMAL APPLICATION FOR GSP BENEFICIARY STATUS, AY WE STATE ALSO THAT IBA MEMBERS NOT RPT NOT REGARDED AS SUBJECT TO CARTEL EXCLUSION, BASED ON ACTIVITIES OF IBA TO DATE?

6. QUERY: IS JANUARY 31 ABSOLUTE DEADLINE AFTER WHICH APPLICIONS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED?
KREBS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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